

MYSTAGOGY

Professing the Faith

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

*O God,
you give us minds
and voices
to proclaim the faith you
plant in our hearts.
Make us strong
in faith, hope, and love.*

Recall the Easter Vigil

The baptismal candidates first renounced sin, and then explicitly embraced the Paschal Mystery, giving voice to the ancient Profession of Faith.

Probe the Mystery

Words help to make meaning. They express what we think, how we view things, how we relate to each other, and what we are planning for the present and the future.

Before entering the font, the baptismal candidates spoke. By their own words in response to the priest celebrant's questions, they turned away from Satan's allure and rejected sin. They set their faces toward God and the life-giving waters of the baptismal font.

They then spoke words that gave voice to what we, and they, believe: one

God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—by the sacrifice of the Cross and the glory of the Resurrection offers Salvation to humanity through the vehicle of the Church. In the words of the Creed, the baptismal candidates committed themselves forever to the promise of the Savior and the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

They avowed faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in a Trinitarian fount of divine love that overflows into our lives. How do the words of the Creed affect you when you speak them or hear them? For you personally, what is the most touching word or phrase in that ancient Profession of Faith?

Savor the Sweetness of Salvation

Baptismal candidates are not the only ones who commit or bind themselves to God in these credal vows. Every Sunday the entire assembly—all those who are baptized—renew their baptismal promises in the words of the creed, the Profession of Faith.

Because it is said every Sunday, it has become very familiar. The words of the Profession of Faith *should* be familiar, comfortable, and thus habit-forming—much like marriage vows become livable and lived-in over time. If you were to rewrite the Creed, professing faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in your own words, what would you say?

Although the church is dispersed throughout the world, even to the ends of the earth, it has received this common faith from the apostles and their disciples. . . . the church . . . carefully preserves it intact, as if it were living in a single house. The church believes these doctrines as if it had only one soul and one heart, and it proclaims them and hands them on in perfect harmony, as if it spoke with only one voice.

Saint Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* 1.10.1-3: PG 7:549-53

Inspire Others

Saying and making the Sign of the Cross is a “summary version” of the Profession of Faith, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Make it at least twice daily, as you arise each morning and before you retire to bed at night. Sign your children with it, blessing them before they go to bed, or before they leave the house.